

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A mobile handset comprising:

a housing having a plurality of key openings that include alphanumeric key openings ~~at least one key opening~~ and a transparent area adjacent each of the key openings that is integrally associated with a front portion of the housing;

a graphical element positioned adjacent each alphanumeric ~~the~~ key opening and on the transparent area, each ~~the~~ graphical element being indicative of an alphanumeric ~~[[a]]~~ key function, wherein each ~~the~~ graphical element is located on the corresponding transparent area in the front portion of the housing; ~~[[and]]~~

an electroluminescent panel within the mobile handset and constructed to illuminate at least a portion of the transparent area; and

a keypad disposed between the housing and the electroluminescent panel, the keypad comprising a plurality of alphanumeric keys that protrude through the housing.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The device of claim 1 wherein each ~~the~~ transparent area comprises a translucent area.

Claim 4 (Original). The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one layer of an opaque coating upon at least a portion of the transparent area.

Claim 5 (Original). The device of claim 4 wherein the graphical element comprises a negative image within the coating.

Claim 6 (Original). The device of claim 5 wherein the graphical element comprises at least one type of graphical element selected from the group consisting of laser-etched graphical elements, pad-printed graphical elements, and in-mold decorated graphical elements.

Claim 7 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the graphical element comprises at least one type of graphical element selected from the group consisting of painted opaque graphical elements, pad-printed opaque graphical elements, and in-mold decorated opaque graphical elements.

Claim 8 (Original). The device of claim 1 wherein the housing and the graphical element comprise an in-molded graphical element.

Claim 9 (Original). The device of claim 8 further comprising at least one layer of an opaque coating on the non-graphics surface area of the housing.

Claim 10 (Original). The device of claim 8 further comprising at least one layer of an opaque coating on the graphics surface area of the housing.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A mobile handset comprising:

a translucent housing having an outer surface, and an inner surface, and a plurality of key openings that include alphanumeric key openings;

at least one layer of an opaque coating upon at least said outer surface of the translucent housing;

a plurality of graphical elements located on at least the translucent housing outer surface, wherein each the graphical elements positioned adjacent the alphanumeric key openings on the translucent housing and being indicative of a key function, and comprising a negative image within the coating so as to expose the translucent housing outer surface through the graphical elements; [[and]]

a backlighting source located within said housing for enhancing the visibility of the graphical elements, the backlighting source comprising an electroluminescent panel;

a keypad disposed between the translucent housing and the electroluminescent panel, the keypad comprising a plurality of alphanumeric keys that protrude through the translucent housing.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). In a mobile handset comprising a split housing defining front and back portions, the front portion interfacing with ~~carrying a~~ key pad that includes a plurality of alphanumeric keys ~~including a plurality of spaced apart keys~~ arranged in a convenient manner to permit user access to telephonic functions, a power source, a backlighting source including an electroluminescent panel, and graphical elements including a plurality of symbols each corresponding to one or more telephonic functions, the improvement comprising:

at least the front portion of the housing formed from light transmitting material and having a plurality of key openings that include alphanumeric key openings;

an opaque layer covering selected portions of the light transmitting housing front portion defining the edges of the graphical elements, wherein the graphical elements are located on the front portion of the light transmitting housing and adjacent each alphanumeric key opening; [[and]]

the electroluminescent panel arranged within the housing so that visible light from the electroluminescent panel is emitted through areas of the housing front portions not covered by the opaque layer; and a

a keypad disposed between the housing and the electroluminescent panel, the keypad comprising a plurality of alphanumeric keys that protrude through the front portion of the housing.